

CLAIMS:

1. A method of detecting a watermark in a multimedia signal being rendered by an application executed by a computer system in a window of a display screen connectable to said computer system, said window covering a part of the image area of said display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

- examining the video signal being generated by said computer system and applied to said display screen to locate image areas in which the video signal changes from frame to frame;
- defining a bounding box around said image areas to provide an area of interest; and
- detecting the watermark in said area of interest.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bounding box is rectangular.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, in which the watermark detector is arranged to detect the watermark in a image having a predetermined resolution, the method further comprising the step of scaling the area of interest to said predetermined resolution.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of examining the video signal for further areas of interest, and detecting the watermark in said further areas of interest.

5. A computer system arranged to execute an application which renders a possibly watermarked multimedia signal in a window of a display screen connectable to said computer system, said window covering a part of the image area of said display screen, the computer system comprising:

- means for examining the video signal being generated by said computer system and applied to said display screen to locate image areas in which the video signal changes from frame to frame;

- means for defining a bounding box around said image areas to provide an area of interest; and
- a watermark detector for detecting the watermark in said area of interest.

6. A graphics card for use in a computer system arranged to execute an application which renders a possibly watermarked multimedia signal in a window on a display screen connectable to said graphics card, said window covering a part of the image area of said display screen, the graphics card comprising:

- means for examining the video signal being generated by said computer system and applied to said display screen to locate image areas in which the video signal changes from frame to frame;
- means for defining a bounding box around said image areas to provide an area of interest; and
- a watermark detector for detecting the watermark in said area of interest.

7. A graphics card adapted to render a possibly watermarked multimedia signal in a window of a display screen connectable to said graphics card, said window covering a part of the image area of said display screen, the multimedia signal being generated by an application executed by a computer system comprising said graphics card, the graphics card comprising:

- means for examining the video signal being applied to said display screen to locate image areas in which the video signal changes from frame to frame;
- means for defining a bounding box around said image areas to provide an area of interest; and
- a watermark detector for detecting the watermark in said area of interest.